

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS for FRESHMAN PARENTS/GUARDIANS

When is the first day of school for Freshmen?

Freshmen will report to school for the first time on **Thursday September 5th**. This is a day set aside for freshmen and St. Mary's Academy students to get used to the school without the upper classes in the building. Freshmen will be introduced to the school's use of technology, sit for a photograph, and follow a modified class schedule to meet their teachers and find their way around the building. Lunch can be purchased in the cafeteria if the cafeteria account has been funded, or students can bring a bagged lunch.

Students should report to school by 8 am (late bell rings at 8:05 am) and will be dismissed at 2:34 pm. The busses depart the school parking lot at 2:45 pm. Busses **will** be running that day. If you are planning on dropping off or picking up your child please see the [Student Drop Off and Pick Up](#) section on the *Important Information* sheet included in the mailing.

All Students in all grades will be reporting to school on Friday September 6th for a full day of classes.

How do I know my child's bussing schedule and bus pick up/drop off information?

If you have signed up for bussing from your home district, please contact your public school's transportation office for information on bus pick up/drop off times and locations. Please note that some districts will not transport your child on days when their school is closed and Kennedy Catholic is still in session. (Teacher Conference Days, Jewish Holidays, etc.) Learn your home district's policy and plan accordingly.

If you plan on using one of Kennedy Catholic's Shuttle Bus services, please consult the Shuttle Bus information sheet available on the *Welcome Back* webpage which will have the most up to date information. ***Please note that bus pick up/drop off information may have changed from the information that was given to you at open houses or registration.***

If you did not sign up for Kennedy Catholic's Shuttle Bus service during the registration process and would now like to make use of those services, please download the form from the *Welcome Back* webpage and submit it as soon as possible--before the bus fills to capacity.

What Uniform should my child wear on the first day?

On Thursday September 5th, students should report to school in their Dress Uniform as they will be sitting for photographs for their ID card and yearbook pictures.

On Friday September 6th, they should report in their Casual Uniform.

Students will continue to wear the Casual Uniform throughout the fall until the Administration announces the change back to the Dress Uniform. Please refer to the Dress and Casual Uniform Descriptions section of the *Welcome Back* webpage for further information.

When does my child receive his/her iPad?

iPads will be distributed during the first week of school. Students will receive guidance on how to set up the iPad, how to download their e-textbooks and general use instructions. Any student having difficulties with any iPad functions should ask for a pass to connect with the technology team for assistance.

Please note that your child will need to bring in a signed copy of the iPad Usage agreement on their first day. The link to that document can be found in the 9th grade section of the *Welcome Back* webpage. Failure to sign and return this document will result in disciplinary action.

I want to purchase an Apple Pencil for my child. Which one will work with their school iPad?

The Apple Pencil 1st Generation and Apple Pencil USB-C are compatible with the iPads used at Kennedy Catholic. (The Apple Pencil Pro and the 2nd generation pencils **will not work** with the iPads used at KCPS.) If your child is already using a 1st generation pencil, an adapter may need to be purchased from the Apple store. Newly purchased 1st generations have that adapter included in the box. Apple pencils are not mandatory, but many students find that they prefer them to a stylus. If you do purchase a pencil, please save the box with the pencil's serial number, as that may help reunite students with lost Apple pencils. It would also help if you find a way to put your child's name on the pencil. You can also purchase a less expensive Bluetooth stylus from companies like Amazon. If you choose not to purchase an Apple Pencil, you may want to purchase a stylus, which can generally be found inexpensively at dollar stores or office supply stores.

Apple Pencils are the property of the student. KCPS is not responsible for any lost, stolen, and/or damaged Apple Pencils or other kinds of stylus. KCPS does not sell, lend, or replace any missing or damaged parts of these accessories.

Is there a list of supplies that I have to purchase for my child from an office supply store?

The math department asks that freshmen purchase a **TI-84 Plus calculator** that will be used for all four years of math classes. These calculators can be purchased at most office supply stores, some department/discount stores that carry school supplies as well as online. Please make sure your child's calculator is labeled with their name. This helps us to reunite students with their calculator when they end up in the lost and found.

Other than that, Kennedy Catholic does not issue a supply list. Most of your child's learning will be done through the iPad, e-textbooks and school issued apps. That being said, your child should have a pencil, pen and maybe some spare paper to leave in their locker in the event that they forget their iPad at home and need to take notes. *Loner iPads are only available to students who need to take a test that day.*

Please see the above section on Apple Pencils. Students are also encouraged to purchase a tempered glass or plastic screen protector for their iPad 10.9.

Your child will have to purchase **school locks** on their first day of school. Please refer to the Dean's letter located on the *Welcome Back* webpage for details.

How do I find the school calendar?

The school calendar can be found on the home page of the website (www.kennedycatholic.org) and by clicking on *Calendar* under the *Resource* tab on the school website.

Please note that the school calendar is a living document. So, check it frequently to be up to date on any changes that may occur.

You will also want to take note of the *Weekly Newsletter* that you will be receiving via email as the school year progresses. The Weekly Newsletter contains submissions from various departments throughout the school about upcoming events, changes in scheduled dismissal times and other information you will need to know.

When will the School Store be open?

The school store will be open for purchases of gym uniform or other school spirit items from **9 to 11 am** on Monday August 19th, Tuesday August 20th, Wednesday August 21st, and Tuesday August 27th. CASH OR CHECK PURCHASES ONLY.

In addition, your child will have the opportunity to visit the school store during the second full week of school for the purchase of gym uniforms. An email will be sent to the students after school starts to provide them with the dates and times that the school store will be available to them.

How do I learn about School Policies?

Your child will receive a Student Handbook on the first day of school. You and your child will need to review the information that is contained in the Student Handbook and sign the document that is included as the last page of the book. That signed document will need to be returned by your child to his/her homeroom teacher on Friday September 6th. Failure to return this document can result in disciplinary action. **Please retain the Student Handbook as a reference throughout the school year.**

How do I address “First Day Jitters” with my child?

We have students who come to us from fifty different school districts, many from small private schools or who were previously home schooled. Your child will not be the only one who feels they are alone in this new educational endeavor. There will be many other students looking to make new friends, so encourage your child to be open to encounters with the new people that they will meet. The friendships that are forged in their freshman year at Kennedy Catholic will last a lifetime.

What does my child need on the first day of school?

- ✓ Wear Dress Uniform
- ✓ Money to purchase school locks
- ✓ Signed iPad Use Agreement Form
- ✓ Bagged lunch or funded Cafeteria payment account
- ✓ If taking public transportation (Metro North)—tickets or ticket app